

REMARKS

A first Office Action was mailed on October 20, 2004. Claims 1 – 5 are currently pending in the application. Applicant cancels claims 1 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amends claims 2 and 3 to include the limitations of canceled claim 1. No new matter is introduced.

OBJECTED CLAIMS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 - 4 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claim 1, but that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Applicant amends claims 2 and 3 to include the limitations of base claim 1, and respectfully submits that claims 2 and 3 are allowable. As claim 4 depends from allowable claim 3, Applicant further submits that claim 4 is allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 2 – 4 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,912,353 to Kasuya et al. Applicant cancels claims 1 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, reserving all right to file a divisional application based on one or more of canceled claims 1 and 5 at a future time.

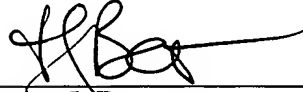
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 2 - 4, consisting of independent claims 2 and 3 and dependent claim 4, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should

consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman
575 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022-2585
(212) 940-8729
Docket No: 100794-00460 (FUJA 20.524)
TJB:pm